IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-18 and rewrite as new claims 19-36 as follows:

19 (New). A batch, in particular for production of a refractory shaped body, comprising:

a) a refractory, Al_2O_3-containing metal oxide main component, the refractory metal oxide main component containing 40 to 60% by weight of Al_2O_3;

b) a phosphate bond, in particular, the phosphate bond being produced by a phosphoric acid or a monoaluminum phosphate; and

c) finely particulate SiC having a grain size of <0.2 mm, the batch containing 3 to 15% by weight of the finely particulate SiC; and

d) the grain size distribution of the SiC being selected so that more than 2.0% of the SiC, based on a total quantity of the batch, is ≤ 0.045 mm.

20 (New). The batch as claimed in claim 19, wherein the batch contains 80 to 97% by weight of the refractory metal oxide main component.

21 (New). The batch as claimed in claim 19, wherein the batch has a SiC content of between 3 and 8% by weight.

22 (New). The batch as claimed in claim 19, wherein the silicon carbide is a fused silicon carbide.

23 (New). The batch as claimed in claim 19, wherein the silicon carbide is a regenerated silicon carbide product.

24 (New). The batch as claimed in claim 19, wherein the refractory, Al_2O_3-containing metal oxide main component includes natural raw materials selected from a sillimanite group and/or a bauxite and/or a refractory clay and/or synthetic raw materials, such as a sintered mullite, a calcined alumina, a sintered conrundum and/or a fused conrundum.

25 (New). The batch as claimed in claim 19, wherein the refractory metal oxide main component contains up to 15% of refractory clay.

26 (New). A process for producing a batch, comprising:

a) mixing a refractory, Al_2O_3-containing metal oxide main component containing 40 to 60% by weight of Al_2O_3 with a finely particulate SiC having a grain size of <0.2 mm; and

b) adding a phosphoric acid or a monoaluminum phosphate as a binder component to form a mixture;

c) the SiC being added in a fineness and quantity so that more than 2.0% by mass, based on total batch, of the SiC is <45 mm.

27 (New). The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein 80 to 97% by weight of the refractory metal oxide main component is admixed.

28 (New). The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein between 3 and 8% by weight of the SiC is admixed.

29 (New). The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein up to 15% of the refractory metal oxide main component is replaced by refractory clay.

30 (New). The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein a fused silicon carbide is used as the silicon carbide.

31 (New). The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein a regenerated silicon carbide product is used as the silicon carbide.

32 (New). The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein natural raw materials, such as raw materials selected from a sillimanite group, a bauxite or a refractory clay, and/or synthetic raw materials, such as a sintered mullite, a fused mullite, a calcined alumina, a sintered conrundum or a fused conrundum, are used as the refractory, Al_2O_3-containing metal oxide main component.

33 (New). The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein the refractory, Al_2O_3-containing metal oxide main component is used with a maximum grain size of 4 mm and a grain size distribution which corresponds to that of a typical Fuller curve.

34 (New). The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein the batch is pressed into shaped bodies using a pressure of from 60 to 110 MPa.

35 (New). The process as claimed in claim 34, wherein the shaped bodies are dried at temperatures of over 100°C, at about 120°C.

36 (New). The process as claimed in claim 35, wherein the shaped bodies, after drying, are fired at a sintering temperature of approximately 1100 to 1400°C.